

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 /085 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5663

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 1280

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 1334

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

MAPUTO FOR AMB. YOUNG'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, ZA, RH, UK

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN PRESS REVERBERATES WITH KAUNDA'S WARNING AGAINST
THREAT OF SMITH ATTACK

REF: LUSAKA 1318

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. TWO ZAMBIAN DAILIES GAVE BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT TO
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KAUNDA'S MAY 16 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IAN SMITH'S THREAT TO LAUNCH
PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACKS AGAINST RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS OPERATING IN
ZAMBIA (REFTEL). "ZAMBIA PUT ON TOTAL WAR ALERT" PROCLAIMED
THE DAILY MAIL WHILE THE TIMES LEAD WAS "DARKEST HOUR
NEARING." SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY KAUNDA WERE TREATED IN
SEPARATE ARTICLES IN DAIL MAIL -- "WHY WE SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT", "KK MAY NOT ATTEND CLUB MEETING" AND "WESTERN POWERS

SLAPPED FOR OILING REBEL SMITH". KAUNDA'S FULL COMMENT ON OIL SUPPLY TO RHODESIA, "IS IT TOO MUCH TO CALL UPON THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS IF THEY ARE GENUINE, IF THEY ARE SINCERE WHEN THEY SAY THEY WANT PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO STOP THIS BY SIMPLY INSTRUCTING THESE OIL COMPANIES TO STOP GIVING SMITH OIL?" WAS SPOTLIGHTED. THESE ACCOUNTS WERE IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL WRAP-UP PIECE OUTLINING DEFENSIVE STEPS TAKEN BY ZAMBIA--ALERTING MILITARY FORCES, PLACING SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS ON THE BORDER AND BANNING ALL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM RHODESIA.

2. EDITORIALY, THE DAILY MAIL CHARACTERIZED SMITH'S THREAT AS "VILE" AND ACCUSED THE BRITISH OF PASSING SMITH'S MESSAGE WITH RELISH BECAUSE, DESPITE THEIR PRETENSIONS, THE BRITISH ARE SEEKING THE BEST DEAL FOR THEIR KITH AND KIN IN RHODESIA. THIS IS UNREALISTIC BECAUSE THE SURVIVAL CHANCES FOR KITH AND KIN IN RHODESIA ARE NOW COMPLETELY HOPELESS. SUCH THREATS ARE NOT NEW TO ZAMBIA. IT HAS STOOD ALONE IN THE PAST AGAINST THE REPRESENTATIVES OF COLONIALISM AND ZAMBIA WILL NOW STAND AGAINST SMITH "AND THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR MIND THAT IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE WE SHALL BQRG HIM AS WE DID TO OTHERS BEFORE HIM". AS LONG AS THE RHODESIAN REGIME EXISTS THERE CAN BE NO PEACE, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS NEIGHBORS. THE PRESENT TASK IS TO FIND WAYS TO REMOVE THE REGIME. SINCE ZAMBIA HAS DECIDED TO FIGHT AND ACCEPTS THAT WAR PRODUCES DEATHS, LET SMITH AND HIS ALLIES REALIZE THEY WILL ALSO HAVE "TO DIE IN LARGER AND MORE FRIGHTFUL NUMBERS". THE ADVOCATES OF TALKS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ANY TALKS "WILL ONLY FORM THE BASIS FOR SURRENDER TERMS FOR THE VANQUISHED AND CERTAINLY NOT AS A BARGAINING PLAT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORM FOR THOSE TO WHOM DEFEAT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER".

3. TIMES OF ZAMBIA IN ITS MAY 17 EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT ZAMBIA HAS BEEN AT WAR SINCE RHODESIA'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. NOW THE ONCE REMOTE STRUGGLE, NO LONGER AT A LOW INTENSITY, HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE DOORSTEP OF EVERY ZAMBIAN. IF SMITH CARRIES OUT HIS THREAT, THE RESULTS WILL BE "GHASTLY" BUT NO ZAMBIAN SHOULD BE AFRAID. TROOPS MAY NOW BE LOCKED IN BATTLE AND BOMBS CAN BE EXPECTED AT ANY TIME SO EACH ZAMBIAN WHO IS A PART OF THE ZAMBIAN ARSENAL MUST BE ALERT. WITH ITS DARKEST HOUR AROUND THE CORNER NOW IS THE TIME FOR ZAMBIA'S FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD TO SUPPLY IT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE SO IT HAS THE WEAPONS TO FIGHT BEFORE THE FIRST SHOT IS FIRED. MESSAGES OF DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT ARE IRRELEVANT IN THE CHANGED SITUATION AND SMITH SHOULD BE TOLD ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND FORCE WILL BE MET BY FORCE.

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COMMENT: DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S ALERTING OF ZAMBIANS TO
POTENTIAL PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES FROM RHODESIA AND THE WORST CASE
INTERPRETATION OF THIS BY THE MEDIA, THE PUBLIC SEEMS NOT TO
BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED. IN LUSAKA, AT LEAST, AND WE HAVE NO
INFORMATION SUGGESTING THE CONTRARY FROM OTHER AREAS, DAILY
LIFE GOES ON AS USUAL. THE EMBASSY HAS YET TO RECEIVE ANY QUERIES
FROM CONCERNED AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN LUSAKA OR RURAL AREAS.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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